

# **Bonne Femme AgNPS SALT Final Report (Boone County)**

## **Water Quality Problems**

In the Bonne Femme AgNPS SALT project, the major problems identified by the district included excess livestock waste on overgrazed pastures, woodland damage due to unlimited access by livestock, presence of many sinkholes, excess sedimentation in streambeds and feedlots. Issues on row cropland in the watershed area included sedimentation and improper or excessive application of fertilizers and herbicides. In addition, damage to streambanks, riparian corridor and small wetland areas was present due to livestock access.

## **Goals and Objectives**

The goals and objectives included restoration of riparian areas, streambanks and small wetlands in the watershed; improvement of invertebrate indicators of stream health; reduction of coliform, nutrient and pesticide contamination of streams.

## **Progress Completed**

The goals and objectives of the project were met using a variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and information/education activities.

### **BMPs**

- Riparian corridor improvement
  - 9,000 trees planted on more than 30 acres.
- Grazing land management
  - 300 acres of prescribed grazing
  - 220 acres of pasture enhancement
- Cropland management
  - More than 3,650 acres treated with
    - 490 acres enrolled in CRP
    - 2,700 acres of residue management and crop rotation
    - 265 acres of grass establishment
    - 28 acres of prescribed burning
    - 8,300 feet of terraces
    - 2 acres of contour buffer strips
    - 0.4 acres of waterway.

### **Information/Education Activities**

- 28 workshops and educational programs which included:
  - small grazing acreage workshops
  - 4 burn workshops; 93 landowners in attendance
  - Grazing schools; 33 participants
  - 4 contractor meetings

- Field days demonstrating riparian corridor establishments, alternative water sources, equipment crossings, livestock exclusion, grass establishment and a small wetland; 84 persons in attendance
- 4 annual meetings; 250 attendees
- Poster contest for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students; 942 student participants
- 4 watershed festivals in conjunction with 319 project; 1,767 student participants
- Quarterly district newsletter and biannual watershed newsletter published

### **Comments**

Prior to the Bonne Femme AgNPS SALT project; this area of the county had very little landowner participation. The project has increased landowner involvement, created a heightened sense of awareness of water quality issues and developed greater interest in conservation efforts, which the district attributes to several reasons. The practices installed provided a good demonstration of conservation efforts in improving water quality. The landowners of the watershed did an excellent job networking through the watershed steering committee, the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District board, and neighbor-to-neighbor communication. The information and education provided through various workshops, field days and additional activities offered during the project life will assist with management in the future.

With the completion of the Bonne Femme AgNPS SALT project, the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District board and steering committee feel the best management practices implemented and the information and education offered during the project life will benefit the watershed for many years to come. The successes of the Bonne Femme AgNPS SALT project have created interest and involvement in water quality conservation efforts and the district hopes this involvement will continue.